

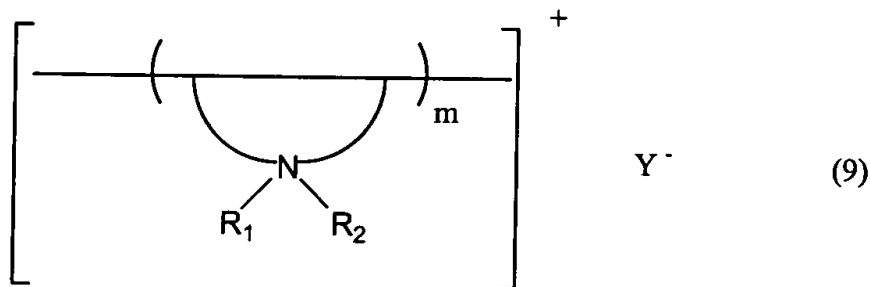
REMARKS

Non-elected claim 20 has been cancelled without prejudice to its presentation in this or a subsequent application. New claim 21 has been introduced. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments made to the claims. Support for new claim 21 can be found throughout the application as filed, e.g., see for example claim 20 presented in the preliminary amendment.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect Group I, directed to claims 14-19, as that Group is defined in the Office letter. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue non-elected claim 20 in a divisional application.

In response to the Species Election requirement, Applicants make the following elections:

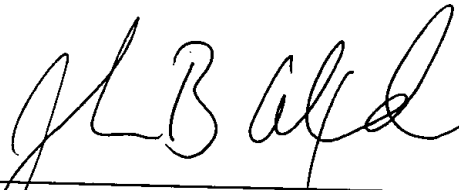
- a. Active-hydrogen-containing compounds: Applicants elect compounds having an active hydrogen atom bonded directly to a heteroatom and more particularly compounds comprising an amino functional group, e.g., a -NH_2 group.
- b. heterocyclic compounds and aldehydes: Applicants elect oxirane compounds
- c. Polymer gels: Applicants elect polymer gels comprising repeat units according to Formula (9):



These elections are made with the understanding that upon allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

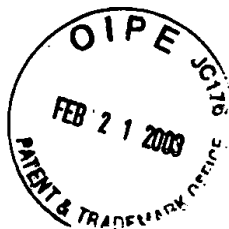
It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J B Alexander', written over a horizontal line.

Date: February 14, 2003

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VERSION WITH CHANGES MARKED

(Additions are underlined; deletions are bracketed.)

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly cancel claim 20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claim 21, as follows:

21. (new) The addition method of claim 14, wherein:
the active-hydrogen-containing compound is (meth)acrylic acid and the heterocyclic compound is an oxirane compound, and
the (meth)acrylic acid is activated with the polymer gel under conditions conducive to the addition of the oxirane compound to the (meth)acrylic acid, so as to form a hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylate.

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